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Andrew Price, Editor

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LETTERS FROM Lieut. ROBERT D. KERR, U. S. A.

On Board S. S. Indiana, Four Days from San Francisco, July 1, 1898.

MY DEAR SISTER:

I received your letter after we were out to sea about two days, and I realize fully that it must be pretty hard for you all to have me go away and I hated to go for that reason. But as for myself there is nothing hardly that could please me better. And what young man of my age could look at the situation otherwise? I am getting a voyage around the world free, and paid besides. We are not going to fight over there. There is not half as much danger there as in Cuba.

The first day or two I was a little sea-sick, but since then I am having a capital time. There is a member of my class on board the same ship. Mr Kerth of the 23d Infantry. I am the only one of the Engineers of my class sent out here; one, Mr Brown, was sent to Cuba. The others were still at Willets Point the last I heard of them. You wanted to know why I was selected to go and not the others. The Captain of the company knew me at West Point and had General Merritt apply for me by name. If I had been a little more disagreeable to that Captain he would most likely have not bothered me.

I will tell you just how I have looked at this matter. I was very anxious to get something to do but knew it would worry you all at home, so I just resolved to keep quiet and let things work out their own way. It ought to be some consolation to you to know that I am well satisfied and enjoying myself well every where. I know the happiest moment of my life will be when I get back to my dear old home, and the greatest pleasure I can have is to sit alone in the moonlight and dream of Pocahontas. Still I am just as well satisfied now as I ever was. There is always something to wish for, and it has been truly said that the pleasure of anticipation is greater than that of reality.

We had a rough sea at first for a day or two, but now every thing is smooth. We will arrive at Honolulu in about four days more and stay there a day or two. Then I shall send this letter back. From Honolulu we shall have a long voyage of about 20 days to Manila. There are about 60 officers and about 960 men on this boat. A Brigadier General is in command, General McArthur. I want you all to go right ahead and write as usual, and then when I get mail I will make up for lost time. I shall write just as often as I can after we land. There is so much sameness about the days on board that it would be useless to write often as I can not send them back till we reach our destination any how. I shall write more and send with this from Honolulu.

We were furnished with a camera and all material for taking pictures, so I expect to get quite a collection by my trip and get them free too. I sent my commission back from Frisco, and would like to have it taken care of as I prize it very much, as well as my diploma from West Point.

Now you must all take special care of yourselves and we shall have a grand old jubilee when I get back from "my tour around the world."

The people of San Francisco were very kind to us all. One girl who lives there used to be at West Point and she did a great many things for me, brought me fruit out to camp and made me a con-com to keep my toilet articles in, and all around she was just like a sister to me—almost. I shall write more before I get to Honolulu. We may meet a ship to-day and send this back by it.

Affectionately your brother,
ROBERT D. KERR.

tomorrow, reading of the Declaration of Independence, etc. I have looked out at the ocean so long that it is becoming a little monotonous. We will arrive at Honolulu Wednesday morning some time.

July 5.—Well we shall get to Honolulu tomorrow about 8 a. m. That will be about 2 p. m. in West Virginia. As I shall be Officer of the Day tomorrow and probably won't have much time then, so I shall finish my letter to-day.

For nine days I have not seen an appearance of land. Water in all directions as far as the eye can reach. No living thing off the vessel except some sea-gulls and flying fish. I have seen whole schools of them. They are usually very small, but some are a foot or more long and fly two hundred yards, sail you know.

I bet we had the most unique celebration of the 4th. We had some rockets last night that were quite pretty. I shall send you the programme just for a novelty.

The sea is smooth now and the weather is getting pretty warm. At San Francisco it was so cold we almost froze, and on the sea there is always a good breeze. I never was so healthy in my life, feel like a fighting cock all the time.

After this letter, which you ought to receive about 15th or 20th of this month, you will probably not hear from me till September. Then probably once a month, but then you will get more than one letter a month. Do not forget to write often and I shall write very often.

Take the very best care of yourselves and I shall do the same, and I know I can get back before long and such a grand time as we shall have then.

Give my love to all and please remember me to Aunt Polly and every body else whom you see. Take good care of the children and tell Nell and Nell to write to me.

Your sincere brother,
ROBERT D. KERR.

Honolulu, Hawaii,
July 6, 1898.

DEAR FATHER, MOTHER, AND ALL:

We arrived here this morning at daylight and I marched out as officer of the day at 9. Have not seen much yet, but from what I see I like the place very much. There was a vessel touched here on her way from Australia, and I sent a letter by her (to Vesta.) This letter will go day after tomorrow. Probably by this time the Islands form part of the United States. We are anxious for the Newport to come into port, as she will probably bring news of importance. General Merritt will come on board her.

The natives are a pretty ugly set but look like they are capable of vast improvements under the influence of civilization, and no doubt they are. It is funny to throw nickles over in the muddy water and see the kids dive after them. They always get the nickel and slap it into their mouth.

Most of the people of the city are Americans and all give us a most hearty welcome. They give all of the men a fine dinner, and that is no small matter to feed four or five thousand men and repeat it every week or two.

We shall probably stay here a day or two yet. I send some little souvenirs,—some Hawaiian stamps and a badge.

July 7.—We leave this evening at 5, I believe, so I shall have to finish. Take best care of yourselves and write often. Love to all.

Your devoted son,
ROBERT D. KERR.

Freedom from a Terrible Slavery.

At last, I am thankful to say, the opera is dead. No longer shall my soul be corroded by the thought that I ought to be in my stall and am not; no longer when I am in my stall shall I write in anger to think of the stupidity of wasting my time so.—Saturday Review.

Vein Trust in a Name.

"How did the horse Indiarubber come out?"
"Distanced."
"Blame it! I thought he would win on the home stretch.—Chicago Tribune.

FLOOD DAY IN MARLINTON.

Ever since the time of Marlinton was begun in the year 1832 we have been threatened with a flood that would make a mockery of the whole town, and people down the river have been putting off buying furniture thinking they would find plenty in the rack heap almost any morning. To-day that people verily believed what they said, affidavits were made to a bill of injunction that the spot where the temporary court-house stands had been thirteen feet under water. This spot was the lowest of the flood, which proved conclusively that the covered bridge across the river must have been submerged in the flood of '77, but to the best of their recollection the semi-aquatic residents say that hay-stacks passed under the bridge that day with a little squeezing. We have passed through a big flood caused by 4 1/2 inches of rainfall, and we have talked with people all over the county and each one agrees that had the rain been as heavy generally as it was in his own particular section there would have been nothing left of Marlinton but the town site. Our friends watched the river with compassion for us poor people, but still wanting something to float by like a house. It was human nature.

People who lived upon hills they had not built and which only come in useful occasionally, came down to see us in our trouble and they were very sympathetic and nice, but that they were glad they did not live on the river was sticking out all over them, and we railed at them and called them "dry land terrapins." "Where the carcass is there will the eagles be gathered together."

A man who has lived on the river for years and who has made it the subject of much study ventured the opinion that the river would rise until dark. A man who lives on the mountain looked at him pityingly and said, "No, sir; it'll rise till plum daylight tomorrow!" The river had commenced to fall by dark.

There was a festival set for Wednesday evening in the school-house, and the school-house was surrounded by water and there was no disposition to hold a festival that evening. A party of men from the town had arranged to go up the river about ten miles to camp and fish for bass. The ladies who were trying to raise some money for the church objected to their absenting themselves on this occasion, and were inclined to accuse them of running away. It was talked of so much that when the rain began to fall Tuesday, a citizen who was doing all he could to make the festival a success, to-wit, J. H. Patterson, remarked that the rain was a direct dispensation of Providence to raise the water too high for fishing and keep the recreant members at home. The river got too high for fishing and festivals, and the man who made that unfeeling remark moved out of his house.

INTERESTING BIBLE HISTORY.

In Madrid there is an old prison at the locality named the Place of Skulls. It was here that an heir to the Spanish throne was imprisoned for thirty-three years by order of the crown for fear he would cause trouble by his aspirations for the throne. Death finally came and released him, and it was found that he had spent much of the time in searching the Scriptures. He had recorded what he had found out on the rough walls of his cell, using an old nail for a pencil. By these scribbles on the walls we learn how the learned Prince of Granada was employed much of his time through the sad and weary years of his imprisonment.

In the Bible he found the word "Lord" 1,853 times, and "Jehovah" 6,855 times. The middle verse is Psalm 97, 8th verse; the longest is Esther 8, 9th verse, and the shortest is John 11, 35th.

In the whole Bible the word "girl" occurs but once, Joel 3: 3. There are 3,528,483 letters; 778,093 words; 31,378 verses; 1,192 chapters and 66 books.

After his 33 years study of the Bible he esteemed the 26th chapter of the Acts as the finest chapter to read, and the most beautiful portion is Psalm twenty-third. He regarded the following as the four most inspiring promises:

In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.—John 14: 2.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst let him come and drink.—John 7: 37.

And when he was come into the house the blind men came unto him; and Jesus said unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.—Matthew 9: 28.

Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desire of thine heart.—Psalms 37: 4.

It seems that he regarded this as one of the best for the new convert to read: "Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and stay upon his God."—Isaiah 50: 10.

The Prince of Granada advised all disposed to flatter themselves with vain boasting to read the sixth chapter of Matthew, and he thought all humanity should learn by heart the sixth chapter of Luke, from the twentieth verse to the last.

What a great thing it would have been for Spain, had that hand writing on the wall been duly heeded, and how it will be for us to give due heed to the same in our lives as individuals and as a people.

S. C. B.

THE LIBERTY THAT FREES.

The highest attainment an individual or a nation is achieved when a true ideal of liberty is apprehended and aimed at. Among ideals national and personal none is more inspiring and worthy of earnest endeavors than that of TRUE FREEDOM. The freedom that is the counterpart of order, a place for everything and everything in its place, and the faithful promoter of every thing that is right. Such freedom is self-reverence, self-knowledge and self control.

August obedience by the world aimed is God's economy to make us free."

Liberty in its best sense is not the liberty to do wrong unrestrained, nor is it to do as we wish, but as we ought, not to follow the impulses of appetite, but to listen to the dictates of reason. The demagogue was not a free man when he was rendering among the tombs of Gadara, the beneficent features of proper restraint, but it was while he was sitting at the feet of our Lord, clothed in his right mind. To be free in the right sense is not to have unhindered facilities for dissipation or cheating or treacherous diplomacy, but to be free as Milton teaches is the same thing as to be pious, temperate and magnanimous in word thought and deed.

The Biblical description of the state of things when every body was doing that which was right in his own eyes is a description of modern anarchy, not of heroic freedom, and go wonder thoughtful people are so sorry at seeing that just such a description is rapidly becoming our national ideal as Americans.

Man's liberty ends, and it ought to end when that liberty becomes the curse of his fellow citizens. To reflecting people nothing is more truly alarming and more ominous than what is apparent among all classes, the base, ignorant, devilish notion that a citizen ought to be free to do what he likes. When this rapidly growing idea comes to pervade our politics, our barracks, our schools and universities, then the very spring of all personal or national nobleness must soon be exhausted, and a ruined, sorrowing people may learn too late:

"He is a freeman whom truth makes free,
And all are slaves besides!"

S. C. B.

JAMES TALLMAN, A PIONEER OF GREEN BANK.

W. T. P.

Among the names identified with our county's history that of Tallman has figured prominently for more than a hundred years, and while there are scores of our citizens with Tallman blood in their veins, yet the name is not borne by but few anymore, as so many have moved away to other counties and western States. The Tallman relationship trace their ancestry to James Tallman, who was a native of Augusta County, and soon afterwards settled on property west of Green Bank, now held by Joseph Beard, the heirs of the late Adam Arbogast, and Dr Mooman. This must have been before the Revolution, as all the probabilities point to that conclusion. There were in the first family three sons and two daughters. Rachel, Rebecca, Benjamin, William, Boone. Rachel was married to Peter Hull, of what is Highland County, Virginia, who was a son of Adam Hull.

Rebecca Tallman was married to the late Reuben Slaven, Meadow Dale, Highland County. Special mention of her family appears in the Slaven sketches.

Benjamin Tallman married Elizabeth Warwick, and settled on property now owned by Captain Siple. The names of his family, William, James, Robert, John, Cyrus, and Nancy Craig who became Mrs Benjamin Tallman (of Boone) and lives in Illinois.

Benjamin Tallman was a colonel of the 127th Regiment, Virginia Militia, a member of the court, represented the county in the Virginia House of Delegates, and was for many years a ruling elder in the Liberty Presbyterian church. As a member of the church he performed the marriage ceremony.

William Tallman married Jane Bradshaw, daughter of John Bradshaw, the founder of Huntersville, and settled on a section of the Tallman homestead. It was their son James Tallman, who was the successor of Henry Moffett in the clerkship of Pocahontas courts.

Boone Tallman, the third son of the early settler, went to the Levels often enough to win the affections of Mary Poage, daughter of George W. Poage. Their children were George, James Crawford, Benjamin, who met his death by drowning; and Rachel Ann, who became Mrs Enoch Burner.

In reference to the second marriage of James Tallman, Senior, we learn that his second wife was Jemima Gillespie, daughter of Jacob Gillespie, the Green Bank pioneer. The maiden name of Mrs Jacob Gillespie was Rebecca Berry. Rebecca Berry was reared near Winchester, and her first marriage was with Samuel Vance. It was her daughter, Mary Vance, who married Major Jacob Warwick of Clover Lick, and is the ancestor of the Jacob Warwick relationship in Bath and Pocahontas counties. Upon her marriage with Jacob Gillespie, her second husband, her daughter Jemima Gillespie became James Tallman's second wife. Jemima Tallman being the half sister on the mother's side of Mrs Mary Vance Warwick, explains the connexion existing between James Tallman's second family and the Bath branch of the Warwick relationship.

The Vances and the Berrys were well-known settlers of Winchester and the country adjacent, and in the Opequon grave-yard their names are found inscribed among the first to be buried in that historic region. The name Berry is perpetuated in the name Berryville, the county seat of Clarke. The Berrys and the Vances were a part of that living wall the eastern Virginians were so anxious to see stand between them and the Indian marauders from the gloomy wilds of the west.

James and Jemima Tallman's children were Jane, Nancy, Margaret, Sally, Samuel and James. Jane Tallman became Mrs William Arbogast and settled at Green Bank, on the estate now owned by

Dr Mooman. Their children were William Franklin, James Crawford, George Washington, Alonza Harriet, now Mrs Isaac Moore, of near Dunmore; Margaret Caroline became Mrs David Meekins Maupin, first marriage, and Mrs Thomas Randolph Maupin, second marriage; a much esteemed lady, lately deceased. It was her son Harvey Maupin whose tragic death occurred near Marlinton a few months since.

Nannie J. Arbogast, the youngest, became Mrs Dr J. P. Mooman, of Marlinton Bank on the north side of the river.

Hon William Arbogast was one of the prominent and successful citizens of his time. Farmer, merchant, member of the legislature, and all round business character. He was the son of Adam Arbogast Sr., and his wife Margaret Hull, daughter of Peter Hull, Senior, of Crabbottom.

Nancy Tallman became Mrs Braunon and lived in Lewis county.

Margaret became Mrs Goff and also lived in Lewis county. The writer has nothing in hand to illustrate their home history as to particulars.

Sally Tallman was married to William Gumm and settled on Dear Creek, on the place now in the hands of E. O. Moore. Her children were George, Franklin, Samuel, Milton, Lee, Martha Jane third wife of Hon. William J. Wooddell; Caroline, second wife of Lafayette Burner; Rebecca became Mrs Lee Burner; Ella became Mrs Brown Turner, near Green Bank; Marietta became Mrs Enos Tallman, Back Alleghany; Nancy died at the age of four years.

Thus from the assistance of such friends as Mrs Major Bird and Mrs Dr Mooman the compiler is able to furnish the foregoing particulars, illustrating but in part the history of the Tallman relationship in our county. A relationship long and conspicuously identified with the development and progress of important communities. The Tallmans were a people who aspired to be among the foremost in every thing that promoted the improvement and elevation of their neighbors and themselves, and their influence has been deeply impressed upon many characters.

With all his hindrances and lack of favorable opportunities, James Tallman, the clerk, developed a character that commanded respect in the parlors of the White Sulphur, and elicited a complimentary remark from Lord Morpeth, a distinguished English nobleman, who was spending the summer of 1838 at that resort.

The late Peter H. Slaven was a Tallman by nature, if not in name, and people will tell you that for all that makes up an elevated character, Peter Slaven aimed to have it. Though the name has well nigh ceased to be heard among us, yet the writer is more than gratified to believe that the spirit of James Tallman, the early settler, is yet moving about among scores of our families.

One Score Weds Five Score.

Barlow Terry, one of the oldest citizens of Hopkinsville, Kentucky being near 100 years old, and Miss Melissa U. Trotter, aged 20 years, were united in marriage at the home of the bride, in Lantry's Precinct, recently. The groom is a wealthy planter of North Christian, and notwithstanding his age, he rode a distance of twenty-three miles to obtain his license, and returned home, making forty-six miles in a day and feeling as well as usual. Cincinnati Enquirer.

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